



Exercise 2.4

Using Case Studies



A variety of case studies are presented in this training program. You can use them in several different ways during a workshop—as background reading, to launch small group discussions, to compare themes, or to analyze various scenarios. Below are questions and strategies for each of the case studies.

Objective: Participants will be able to apply other situations and successes to their own work in managing the wildland-urban interface.

Materials:

Copies of the case studies
Presentation 5

Time: 60 minutes

Choose the cases you wish to use in your training program and duplicate enough for everyone. You have several choices for how to present case studies:

- You could ask participants to read the same case and facilitate a large group discussion.
- You could ask small groups to answer the same questions and report to the large group.
- You could ask small groups to read different cases and share their insights with others.
- You could truncate the cases into open-ended scenarios and ask people to discuss how they would proceed.

Following are sample questions that may help you promote discussion. You can use these or modify them to suit your needs. **Presentation 5** contains these questions and photos related to the case studies.

Case Study 1: The Challenge of Controversial Resource Issues: Southern Pine Beetle

- What issues arise when pest problems occur in interface or urban forests as opposed to larger, contiguous forested lands? How might management strategies differ?
- What were the management options in this scenario? What were some of the main considerations?
- What, if anything, would you have done differently in this situation?
- How does public outreach and education relate to management challenges such as control of southern pine beetle?
- What can agencies do when the management options for dealing with an urgent problem stir up controversy? Has your agency dealt with a similar situation? Explain.

Case Study 3: Cooperation is the Key: Blue Ridge Forest Landowner Cooperative

- What advantages do forest cooperatives provide? What challenges or disadvantages do they have?
- How can the organization of the cooperative minimize the disadvantages?
- How can cooperatives influence forest management in the interface?
- What types of resources were used to get the Blue Ridge Cooperative established? What agencies and organizations have provided them with assistance?
- What role can resource professionals play in assisting forest cooperatives? Has your agency been involved in assisting any local forest cooperatives? If so, how?

Case Study 4: Deer Debate in Hilton Head, South Carolina

- What were the issues in this case study? Who were the people and organizations involved?
- Did the fact that this occurred in an interface area (as opposed to a large, contiguous forest) influence the problem? How?
- What were the management options? What else could have been done?
- What role should resource agencies play in controversial natural resource issues such as this one? How can agencies respond to public debate over management decisions?
- Could this problem have been prevented or minimized? How?

Case Study 5: The Domain: Managing Interface Forests in Tennessee

- What are the major management issues for the Domain? How are they being addressed?
- The Domain is managed for a variety of objectives. What are they? Which objectives call for similar management approaches? Which ones call for conflicting approaches?
- Have you encountered some of the issues illustrated in this case study? How did you respond to them? What worked, what did not?

Case Study 7: Interface Issues in the Georgia Mountains

- What were the main interface issues in this case study?
- How is rapid development in the interface creating or intensifying management challenges in this example? In what ways does rapid development make management challenges easier?
- According to this case study, how has the role of the resource manager changed? What are some of the new skills needed?
- Are there communities in your area experiencing similar issues? Is your role or the role of other resource professionals in your area changing as a result of interface issues? If so, how?

Case Study 11: Life on the Edge: Interface Issues in Bastrop, Texas

- What were the main interface issues illustrated in this case study? Which issues are common to other interface areas? Which are unique to Texas?

- How were these issues responded to? Would you address things differently? If so, how?
- In this example, a residential development next to a state park intensifies the management challenges. Is this a common difficulty in your interface? What is another example of this type of situation?
- What management strategies tend to be controversial when used near residential development? How can you or your agency help address such problems?

Case Study 19: Treasuring Forests in Alabama

- How can programs like the Alabama Treasure Forest Program influence interface issues? How can they influence forest management in the interface?
- What is the primary goal of the program? What strategies are used to achieve the goal?
- Describe a similar program in your state or area. Has it been successful? How involved has your agency been in providing management guidance to landowners involved in the program? What challenges have there been? Do you anticipate that this program will expand, shrink, or change focus in the next 20 years?

Case Study 21: Wildfire Preparedness in Mississippi

- What conditions in this case study make wildfire a concern?
- What strategies have been used to reduce wildfire risk? Which agencies and organizations are involved?
- What role does public outreach or education play in this scenario? What is the target audience? How does this audience affect forest management in the area?
- If fire is an issue in your region, briefly describe the techniques used to manage it. Have there been any efforts to educate the public? Describe. Have they been successful? How have they influenced the success of management efforts?